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ration; which opinion may be entertained without impiety. The allusion I take to be to the famous *jubilee* proclaimed by Edward III. in the 50th year of his reign, when that great king, full of years and honour, was preparing to take leave of the world.

Time's new year's sand nine turns shall see—The above verses, in my explanation, describe the opening of the present century, nine years turns from which brings us to 1809. In that year, his majesty, if he live to the wishes of his subjects, will accomplish the *fiftieth year* of his reign, and may have a *second sceptered jubilee*. What follows, when *grey* (or age) is to be succeeded by *green* (or youth) I will not pursue; having arrived at the point I most earnestly wish for, and with which I shall be content. Some of your readers may perhaps remark, that the year alluded to is just one century beyond that of Swift's explanation of another prophecy of Merlin's; but with that I have nothing to do, further than to observe, that Dr. Johnson, in writing of it, says, that it cannot be read without amazement.

I am, sir, your constant reader,
OSIRIS.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN OF BALLYMENA.

SIR,

A RESIDENCE of eight days, in the town of Ballymena, enabled me to write the following account of it, which I now send you for insertion in your Miscellany, if you think it worthy of a place.

Ballymena is situated on a rising ground, about 21 miles N.W. of Belfast, it consists of four principal, and several smaller streets, and contains about 2500 inhabitants, the houses are built of stone, and have been lately very much improved.—It was formerly called *Kiln-hill-town*, and consisted originally of a few cabins and a kiln for drying corn; I observed two houses which are said to be very old, and are of very curious construction, one end of the front being built in the form of the gable end of a common house and

containing a very old fashioned window. A market-house, was first built here in 1680; the present one, with a steeple of about 60 feet high, stands in the centre of the town, upon the site of the old one: here are three houses of worship, viz. a church, a presbyterian meeting-house, and a methodist house; the river Braid which rises in the Claggan mountains, about seven miles from the town, flows through it and joins the Main near Gracehill, it is well stocked with trout, dolochan, &c. near this is a Danish rath, now called the moat, from which is an excellent view of Mr. Adair's (the proprietor of the estate) house and demesue; the house is very poor, but in a good situation, I was told that a better one which stood here, was some years ago destroyed by fire. Here is an excellent weekly market for $\frac{1}{2}$ wide linens, cows, horses, &c. I have great pleasure in mentioning that it is in contemplation to have lamps erected in the different streets, and it is highly creditable to the inhabitants that they seem unanimous in their wishes for its accomplishment. R.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine

SIR,

WHEN an author comes forward to communicate to the public, what he calls discoveries or inventions; he is supposed to have taken his ground deliberately, and to have previously made himself acquainted with those inventions, that preceded his own in the same line: the less apology will therefore be due, for the following observations on a paper signed "Job Rider," which appeared in your Magazine for June last.

The hydrometer has hitherto been confined to one use, but this author has enumerated no less than four uses to which it is applicable, viz. "its accuracy in showing the specific gravity of fluids," second, "its use in showing the temperature, in the same manner as the thermometer," third, "how it may be made to act as a baroscope;" and fourth, "how it is convertible into a barometer." "In the course of business I made an hydrometer, of which the ball